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House Natural Resources Committee
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Members of the Subcommittee on Water Oceans and Wildlife:

Membership of the Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP) includes state and interstate water resources management agencies, each who require timely and accurate water data to carry out their water allocation and other management duties in their respective states or interstate river basins. The gathering of water data in the United States is a partnership among local, regional, state and federal governments and Representative Stansbury's Water Data Act contains many provisions that will be extremely useful to ICWP members in their day-to-day operations of managing our precious water resources.

ICWP is particularly supportive of the Section authorizing the Advisory Committee on Water Information (ACWI). Congressional authority for an ACWI is important as the good work of the previous ACWI was undercut when many Advisory Committees were abolished under the previous administration. ICWP had a seat on the ACWI for many years and this was an important avenue for non-federal partners to understand the programs of the federal government and provide input on how all our limited resources could be best utilized to collect, analyze and understand water data with the most efficiency and efficacy to the greatest number of decisions makers and water data users.

As water related disasters such as drought, floods and hurricanes continue to become more erratic and severe, it's imperative that we all coordinate our management of water data and information. We support the Water Data Act and encourage its swift passage.

With best regards,

Sue Lowry
Executive Director, ICWP